

Giant cable companies should not be permitted to grow larger. Further consolidation in the cable industry is a clear violation of horizontal ownership rules that must be re-established to serve the public interest.

The concentration of power and control over distribution of media is a growing problem in this country. Though we have more channels available than ever before, they are under the operation of a handful of giant corporations.

If Comcast and Time Warner are allowed to merge with Adelphia, the two companies will control nearly 50 percent of the national market. This level of concentration in the cable industry will lead to higher consumer rates and

lower quality  
service.

Since passage of the  
Telecommunications  
Act of 1996 and the  
“deregulation” of  
cable, consumers  
have seen their  
rates jump an  
average of 59  
percent — with some  
areas experiencing  
even more dramatic  
increases.

We are required to  
buy channels we  
don’t want or need  
because the cable  
operators bundle  
them together. The  
quality of customer  
service often  
reflects the fact  
that cable  
television is not a  
competitive market.

Meanwhile, the cost  
of cable modem  
service remains out  
of reach for many  
households, holding  
constant for years  
and selectively  
underserving rural  
and low-income  
Americans. The

American people are watching the digital divide widen even as the need for access to high-speed networks increases.

Cable companies have become less responsive to the needs and requirements of communities. The quality of public accountability in local franchise agreements has declined, as big companies leverage their power to squeeze local governments.

In many communities, the truly independent sources of local news, information and culture come from the public channels produced at the local access centers.

Unfortunately, local channels lack the resources to produce the programming that citizens want and need.

The last thing we need is to reward the anti-competitive actions of cable giants by permitting greater consolidation in ownership, reducing competition, and encouraging more of the same.

I'm not going to erase the comment that comes with this, because it effectively expresses the frustration I have been dealing with in my cable company. It has come to the point where I won't even recommend my company. I work through the internet as part of my living because I work in Internet web Design and webmastering. It comes to a point where I have to charge higher prices to just cover the cost of the rising costs of cable for my computer. I guess they just don't

believe in helping  
people instead of  
filling their  
pockets with money.

At this rate of  
inflation in this  
country, it will  
come to a point  
where no one will be  
able to afford  
anything, and they  
won't have any  
customers. If they  
want to destroy the  
real workers of this  
country, go to it to  
fill your need for  
greed. I don't mind  
capitalism, that  
doesn't bother me,  
but when it comes to  
a point of turning  
the once great  
America into a  
Fascist state where  
democracy dies and  
freedom no longer  
exists, at least  
we'll know who the  
real Americans are  
in this country. And  
it isn't those who  
sit in the corporate  
seats. They do not  
care about the  
colors red, white  
and blue that myself  
and my family  
ancestry fought for

on the battelfields,  
they only care about  
the color green.